

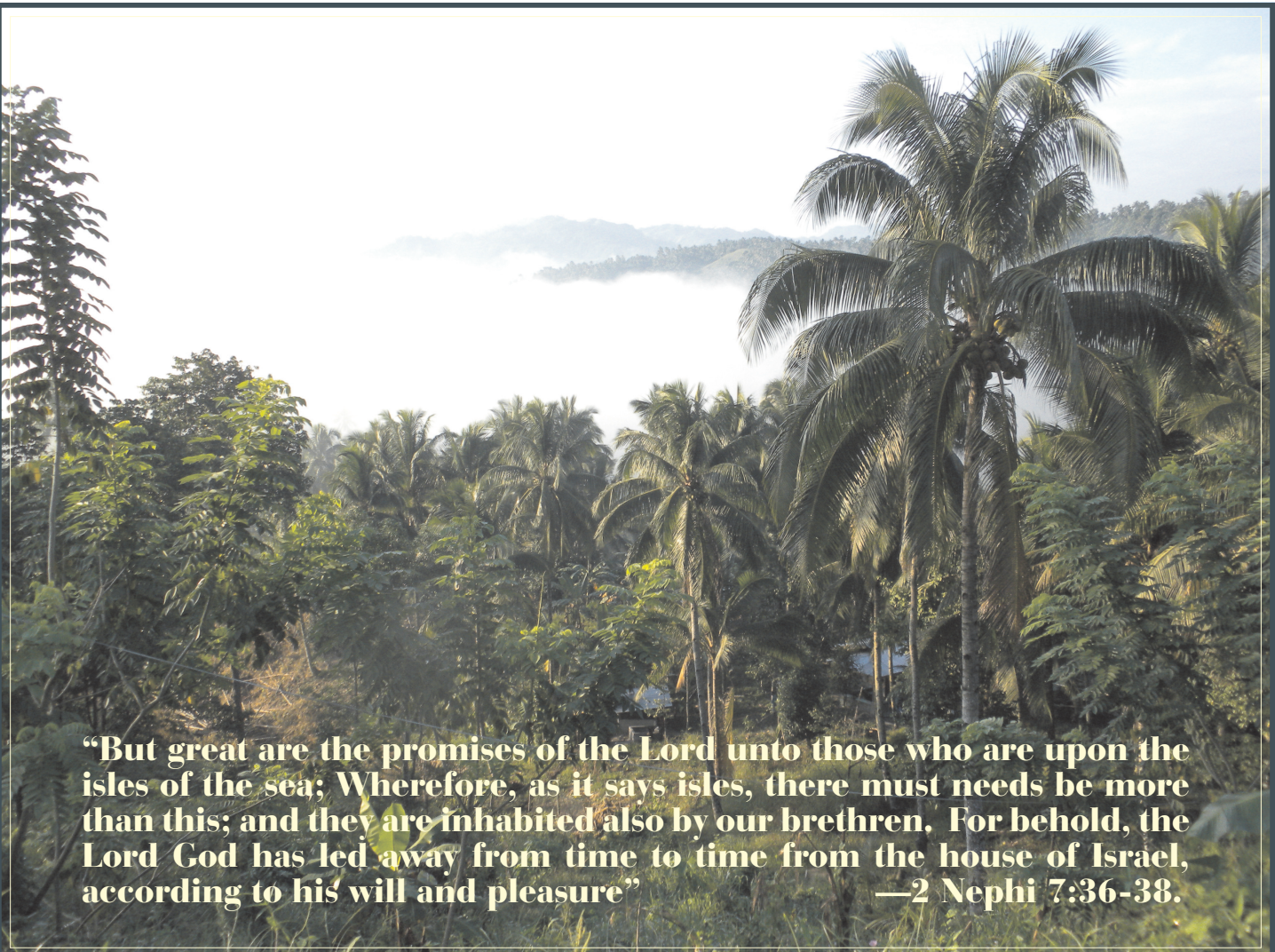
Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."
1 Nephi 3:187*

VOLUME 91

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—September-October 2014

NUMBER 5



**"But great are the promises of the Lord unto those who are upon the isles of the sea; Wherefore, as it says isles, there must needs be more than this; and they are inhabited also by our brethren. For behold, the Lord God has led away from time to time from the house of Israel, according to his will and pleasure"
—2 Nephi 7:36-38.**

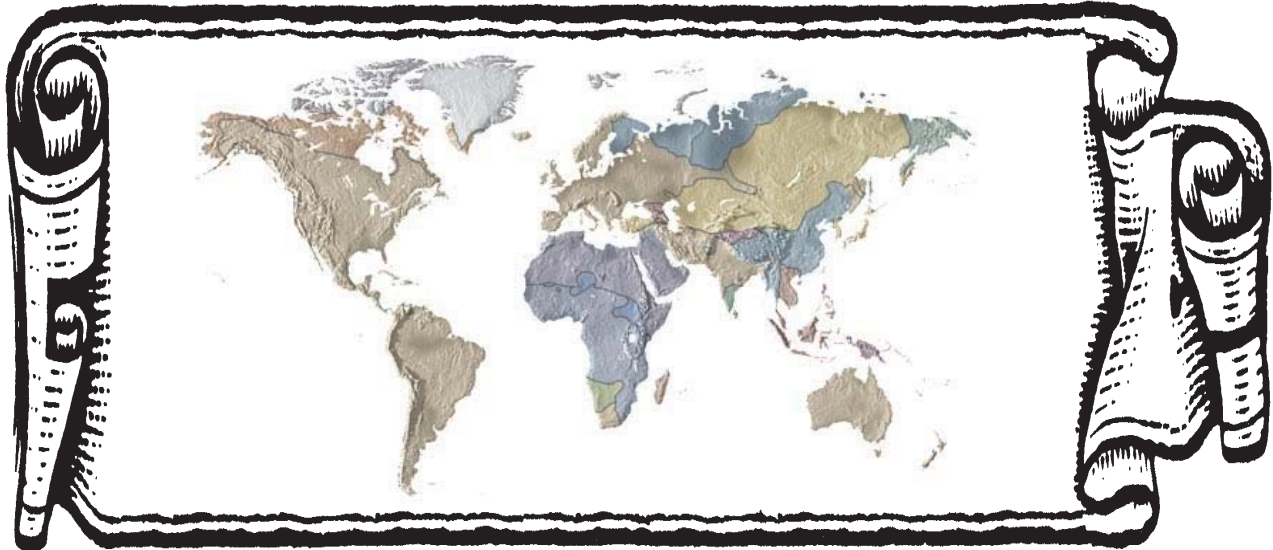
~ In This Issue ~

SERMON—Ambassadors for Christ - <i>Elder Dan Lawrence</i>	87	1950 Church of Christ Group Photo	104
ARTICLE—History and the Church of Christ in the Last Days - <i>Elder Gordon McCann</i>	90	REPORT—The Ordination of Damaiel Ku Cetz - <i>Apostle Alvin J. Moser</i>	106
REPORT—Central Mexico - <i>Apostle Placido K. Matu</i>	101	REPORT—Yucatan Marriage Retreat - <i>Apostle Placido K. Matu</i>	107
GSSA—Giving	102	REPORT—2014 Missouri Reunion Report - <i>Deb Haines</i>	108
ARCHIVES—		NOTICES	111



THE APOSTLES *of the* CHURCH OF CHRIST

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com
Duane Ely, 18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1516; e-mail duanekathyely@aol.com
Placido Koyoc Matu, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: ap.matu2@gmail.com
Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: mcgheeme@msn.com
Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: mcindoo@cox.net
Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050
Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: ajmoser3@cox.net
Jeffrey Oldham, 2609 SW Wintervalley Circle, Lee's Summit, MO 64081; 660-631-3963; jrocontact@gmail.com
Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: r.sarratt@comcast.net
William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3995; e-mail: cofctl@sbcglobal.net
Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: jyates2@yahoo.com



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Duane Ely
18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case
8312 Lee's Summit Road; Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel
9800 E. 32nd Street S.; Independence, Missouri 64052

GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th Street; Phoenix, AZ 85050

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 472; Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85050
E-mail: cofzcaeditor@cox.net

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Apostle Placido K. Matu
Calle 24 #99H x 17 y 19
Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico

Priest Bruce Haines
3904 Christopher Circle
Independence, MO 64055

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

STATUS of PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

Visit us at: <http://churchofchrist-tl.org/>

SERMON

Ambassadors for Christ

Elder Dan Lawrence

The “first and great commandment” is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord:

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Within this commandment is the admonition that it be kept and taught at all times and in all places. We must love the Lord, trust in His Word and be an example of the believer in Jesus Christ in all that we do, wherever we are: at home, at work, at school, in public...at all times and in all places.

I had the privilege of speaking at a thanksgiving service for Sheila Koyoc after she received her teaching certificate. Sheila, Plácido's daughter, has received from our Lord the gift of teaching and a love for children. She has used this gift serving as a Sunday School teacher, a teacher in their Children's Day



and in helping Plácido visiting the missions in Yucatán. I can say without a doubt that she has kept the commandment our Lord gave in Psalms 100:2:

Serve the Lord with gladness.

I'm pleased that she has chosen a profession that allows her to continue to use the gifts that God has given her. We read of this in Moroni 10:8-9:

And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God.

And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men, to profit them.

We have the responsibility to identify the gifts that we have received from God and use them to His glory, always giving Him thanks and praise.

Our young sister is not only teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, she is teaching a way of life, the way of Jesus. She will teach the academic subjects with her words, but with her love toward the children she will teach the attitudes of compassion, honesty, respect, kindness and obedience.

With her whole being she is a teacher – her attitudes, her activities, her words, her appearance – all these things show what kind of person she is. She is teaching with the most powerful tool we possess: OUR EXAMPLE. We read this in 1 Timothy 4:12:

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Just as Sheila is fulfilling her obligation to present her life as an example of the believer in Christ, we also have the responsibility to examine ourselves and the example that we show to those around us. Let us turn to God's word for instruction and encouragement.

Probably the most often quoted verses regarding our example are found in Matthew 5:14-16:

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

We are the light of Christ in a dark world. The world is plunging more deeply into sin each day; things that in the past were considered abominations were first tolerated and now embraced. **The old evil is now the new good.** It's more important than ever that we are careful to always shine the light of Christ's love through our actions, words and attitudes because as 2 Corinthians 5:20 says:

We are ambassadors for Christ.

If we are to be Christ's representatives to the world, our lives must be above reproach.

We receive this wise counsel in 1 Peter 1:13-15:

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

We are called to be holy "in all manner of conversation," putting aside those things that don't bring honor to our God. How can our lives be holy?

First, we must understand that the things of the world, the ways of the world, the attitudes of the world, are not acceptable to God. This is so important that I'd like to offer three passages regarding this:

James 4:4: Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17: Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Luke 16:13: No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Let me ask this question: do you want to be an enemy of God? If your life is defined by the things of the world then you are a friend of the world, you serve the gods of this world and in the end you will be destroyed with them. We make the decision daily what path we're going to walk – in the straight and narrow path of the Gospel of

Christ or the filthy streets of the world. As it says in Matthew 7:13-14:

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The way of the Lord leads to joy, peace and life eternal. Conversely, the way of the world delivers one to sadness, despair and ultimately death. Romans 6:23:

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us consider some ways in which we can be that good example. In just a few verses Titus 2:1-8 offers advice to each of us.

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Young men likewise exhort to be

sober minded.

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Fathers, be a good example to your family – a spiritual leader, directing your family with love and patience, always showing the example of good works and pure thoughts. Pattern your lives on the “sound doctrine” of God’s word.

Mothers, reverently teach your daughters to be chaste and pure, preparing them to be spiritually minded young ladies who will one day be ready to be mothers of their own families. Help them to make wise decisions about their activities, their attitudes and their appearance.

Young men, consider prayerfully your service to the Lord. Prepare yourselves to take on the spiritual responsibilities of your own family and the Church. Study the scriptures to know how to be a good example to your friends. Develop the discernment of the Spirit that would lead you to reject worldly activities. Be sincere in all you say and careful of the words you choose.

Continuing in verses 12-13:

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope,

and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

We are commanded to be “peculiar people,” people who are noticed because of our rejection of “worldly lusts.” It’s only through continual study of God’s word and heeding the direction and encouragement of His Holy Spirit that we can accomplish this.

We have a great hope in Christ and His promise of life eternal if we keep His commandments, and in so doing show a righteous example to a dark world.

Are we prepared to be “ambassadors for Christ?” Let us read the words of Alma, third chapter, verses 46-50:

And now behold, I say unto you my brethren, If ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye feel so now?

Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God?

Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble?

That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins?

Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God.

When we humble ourselves before God and put away our carnal desires, and dedicate our lives to Christ through repentance and baptism, we are mak-

ing the necessary preparation to be the example that He desires. If we remain steadfast in keeping that example, walking “blameless before God,” we will be blessed both in this life and the life eternal.

James 3:13 is a powerful and concise summary:

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

HISTORY AND THE CHURCH of CHRIST IN THE LAST DAYS



By Elder Gordon McCann

This past July I had the opportunity of traveling with Apostle Michael McGhee in his field, the Philippines. I enjoyed very much meeting with the ministry and our fellow brothers and sisters located in the various missions on the island of Mindanao. Since my calling into the ministry I have been afforded the opportunity of traveling with several other apostles whose fields were in

...We knew we had been adopted into a single brotherhood in Jesus Christ.

other parts of the world as well. In each case I found a “kindred spirit” or common bond which was familiar and comforting. It was evident as I had opportunity to greet and fellowship with the various groups of people that the Spirit of God bore witness to me and to those who were present that we were part of something that was not contrived by man but divine. The best way to describe the relationship that was shared would be to say that we knew we had been adopted into a single brotherhood in Jesus Christ.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:...” (Romans 8:14-16).

Before I continue, I want to first preface my following comments with the fact that the Spirit of God is the means by which we can have a full understanding of the Word of God and the work that God has required of us, and without it we are blind (John 14:17, 26; 2 Corinthians 2:9-12). To comprehend more fully what this work entails, we must first understand the basics where we need to “*worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him*” (John 4:23). We do this by exercising our faith by keeping His commandments (John 14:15, 21). We are reminded of the fact that “*without faith it is impossible to please him,*” that if we want to draw close to God we must “*believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (He-

brews 11:6). As we draw closer to God through prayer and fasting we, like our own children wanting to have a better understand of things, are prompted to seek the answers from the source by simply asking. Jesus encourages us to “ask the Father in my name,” applying our faith for the things “which is right” before Him (3 Nephi 8:51), with the promise that “it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7-11) for the sole purpose “that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13-14). We can then build on this basic foundation of faith by becoming familiar with the words of the prophets. Jesus Christ used the words of the prophets and the written word of God when He was challenged by Satan (Matthew 4:4-10), when He taught His disciples (Matthew 26:31), and speaking publicly (Matthew 11:8, 21:13) He would often say “it is written.” It is also important to note that Jesus gave us a commandment to “search these things diligently,” speaking of prophecies by Isaiah that spoke “also to the Gentiles” and to “all things” that “hath been, and shall be” (3 Nephi 10:27-29).

This Church of Christ has come a long way, through many struggles since its restoration in 1830 with all the power, authority, and heavenly gifts manifested by the Holy Spirit given of Christ. The restoration of Christ’s church on earth “in the latter days” (Daniel 2:28) was prophesied by the prophets of old found in the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos, and Rev-

elation, to name a few. The prophet Daniel had indicated that during a specific period in time known as “the latter days” that “in the days of these kings the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” and would “stand forever” (Daniel 2:44). This last kingdom would have the authority from our Lord God and Savior “to seal both on earth and in heaven, the unbelieving and rebellious,” to establish His “everlasting covenant,” and to proclaim “the fullness of my gospel...unto the ends of the world.” This work would be accomplished “by the weak and the simple,” fulfilling the words of the prophets: “The weak things of the world should come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones” (*Book of Commandments* 1:2, 4; 1 Corinthians 1:27). This is the authority and doctrine that is found and proclaimed in this Church of Christ on earth today. We are certainly not known to the world as being large in number and powerful as pertaining to the wealth of the world and the influence thereof. We do, however, have the assurance that this Church of Christ is favored of God collectively where we have not rejected the word of God, and we have His Spirit that manifests these truths within us which has made us “free” (John 8:32), as well “in demonstration of the Spirit in power” (1 Corinthians 2:4) through revelations, visions, dreams, admonitions, and physical healings of the body and spirit.

We have been entrusted with a mighty work to accomplish which has been prophesied will take place in these “last days” that can be found in the writings contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon prior to the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, more specifically, in this day that we live in. World events are changing quickly and for those who are informed will be comforted (Luke 21:28) in the knowledge of those things that have come to pass, that which is unfolding today, and with those prophecies yet to occur.

How can we know prophetically where we are in relationship to the period of time that we live in today? The only way to do that is to have a good foundation of understanding of those prophecies that have already come to pass. We then need to correlate that foundation with prophecies which have not come to pass by diligently searching the Word of God. For example the “wise men” (Matthew 2:1-2) had searched the writings of the prophets concerning the birth of the Messiah which provided specific details as to Who, When and Where His birth would take place. Those wise men had determined that based on prophecy and the events that had already transpired that the next event would be the birth of the Messiah. Their desires, faith, and diligence to the promise was rewarded, where “they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him” (Matthew 2:11).

The Church understands the basic commandment to preach or proclaim "*the fullness*" of the gospel of Jesus Christ "*unto the ends of the world.*" This same gospel and commandment was given to His disciples of the early Church of Christ before His death: "*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations*" (Matthew 24:14), and then after His resurrection "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*" (Mark 16: 15-16). The plainness of the doctrine and the gospel that was taught by Jesus Christ can also be found in the Book of Mormon after His resurrection (3 Nephi 5:32-43, 12:25-35).

We also understand that this commandment could not have been fulfilled since the Apostle Paul warned the Church of Christ in Thessalonica that the Lord's return would not happen "*except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition*" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Our Bibles interpreted the Greek word "*apostasia*" into English as "falling away." The early Church of Christ did fall away from the truth of the gospel that was established by Jesus Christ and was "*prevailed against*" (Daniel 7:21-22). Or as prophesied in the Book of Revelation "*to make war with the saints, and to overcome them*" speaking of the beast (*that man of sin; son of perdition; sic. gm*) that the Apostle John saw would "*rise up out of the sea*" (Revelation

13:1-7). The prophet Amos spoke of a day when the Lord God would "*send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it*" (Amos 8:11-12); this is the period of time that the world identifies with as the "Dark Ages" of mankind. There was truly no light on earth spiritually as well as advancements socially and economically. The world was engulfed in warfare and bloodshed; from despotic rulers of countries and religions to large tribal conflicts set to destroy each other; all this for dominance and power. With a careful study of world history the former statements can be completely supported with factual historical evidence.

For those of you that accept that God in these "*latter days*" has restored His kingdom on earth (as explained above) that would mean you have also accepted the coming forth of the Book of Mormon which was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 29:11-12). These fulfilled prophetic events in 1830 would bring about a dramatic change in the religious as well as social and economic realm. This restored kingdom on earth sparked religious debate among the leading religious faiths. The Church of Christ was established during a period of time in American religious history known as the "Second

Great Awakening" that had its beginnings in the 1790s to the 1830s (www.ushistory.org/us/22c.asp). It was a time of great revivals occurring among the people and churches of the day, each religious sect representing their doctrinal beliefs and practices, promoting themselves as the only true representative of God's truth and doctrine on earth. The newly established Church of Christ, armed with the gift of the Holy Ghost, the Bible and Book of Mormon, the religious record of the remnant of Joseph's seed, Manasseh, (Alma 8:3) began teaching the pure gospel and doctrine of Jesus Christ which struck to the heart the doctrinal teachings of the leading faiths and religious leaders of the day. It was due to that revival spirit that inspired a young teenage boy, Joseph Smith Jr., being swayed from one doctrinal belief to another, to take to heart the words of James the half brother of Christ, "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God*" (James 1:5), and to approach his God in earnest prayer to know "*which of all the religious sects were right?*". Joseph was told "*I must join none of them, for they were all wrong... that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight.*" He was also told why those creeds were not acceptable where the words of Isaiah were given, "*they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for the doctrine the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof*" (Isaiah

29:13). You can read his entire testimony, which is readily available to all from various sources (*An Outline History of the Church of Christ*, page 16).

As I mentioned earlier, this Church of Christ has come a long way, through many struggles since its restoration in 1830. It, too, struggled with the acceptance of false teachings that were proven to be of men, not supported by the Word of God, that caused divisions which lead to apostate sects within the restoration. Many of those apostate restoration sects hold to their faith contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon. However they refuse to lay down those false doctrines because of their trust in the arm of flesh. They choose to ignore the truth by setting aside the Word of God contained in both books which teach against those false doctrines, fulfilling the words of the prophet Jeremiah: *"For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited"* (Jeremiah 17:5-6).

So where are we prophetically concerning God's plan for the children of men today? Let's review with an abbreviated picture of the significant highlights that have taken place to date.

30 AD - The Early Church of Christ

It began with the gospel of Jesus Christ being rejected by the house of Jacob (Israel) and

the acceptance of it by the Gentiles: *"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious"* (Isaiah 11:10). Jesus Christ is that *"root of Jesse"* or lineage, that can be understood in the first five verses of the eleventh chapter of Isaiah. The Bible is the *"ensign"* or banner, which contains His teachings as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Rome when he quoted this verse of scripture from Isaiah (Romans 15:7-13).

570 AD - The Apostasy & Birth of the Prophet Muhammad

The early Church of Christ went into apostasy for a specific period of time, 1,260 years (Daniel 7:25), which began in 570 AD when the Lombards destroyed the last remnants of the Roman Empire, allowing the rise of the *"man of sin... the son of perdition"* (2 Thessalonians 2:3) which was revealed in the power of the Bishop of Rome, the Papacy. The power of Rome which was solidified largely through the efforts of Pope Gregory when selected as Pope in 590 AD, *"Gregory set the Church of Rome firmly on the path to temporal power; he was the real founder of the medieval papacy. Given how the world was falling apart, he was a truly inspiring leader, no least because he did not despair"* (<http://the-orb.net/textbooks/westciv/papacy.html>).

To understand some of

those things that were founded or instituted within the Church of Rome during this period of time I will quote from the Reverend Joseph Benson's commentaries, volume 2 of the 5 volumes written from 1811-18, p 409: *"The man of sin may signify either a single man, or a succession of men; the latter being meant in Daniel, it is probable that the same is intended here also. He shall oppose and exalt himself, not only above inferior magistrates, who are sometimes called gods in holy writ, but even above the great emperors, and shall arrogate to himself divine honors; so that he as God, assuming the authority of Christ, sitteth in the temple of God - exercises supreme and sovereign power over the visible church, as head thereof, even over all that profess Christianity"* (<http://www.biblesupport.com/e-sword-downloads/file/9315-benson-joseph-commentary-on-the-old-and-new-testaments-8-vols/>).

The result of these events was the removal by God of the authority of the priesthood on earth starting the prophetic time clock beginning in 570 AD of 1,260 years (Revelation 12:6).

During this same year (570 AD) was the birth of Muhammad, who was the first and only son of Abd Allah bin Al-Muttalib and Amina bint Wahn. His father died before his birth and his mother died when he was young, around five to six years old. In 610 AD he was *"visited by an overpowering presence and instructed to*

recite words of such beauty and force that he and others gradually attributed them to God" (www.pbs.org/muhammad/time_line_html.shtml). He later made them public and eventually they became known as the Qur'an under the third caliph, Othman, in about 650 AD (www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=aa56). By 622 AD Muhammad and his followers migrated from Mecca and traveled to Yathrib, which soon became known as Medina, the City of the Prophet. What is significant with these events was the establishment of "*the false prophet*," one of the "*three unclean spirits*" identified in Revelation 16:13. It is through their professed beliefs that they do have a belief in Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin who was a Prophet whose message has been corrupted, leaving Muhammad and his messages as the only true prophet and word of God (www.religionfacts.com/islam/compare_charts/islam_judaism_christianity.htm).

1830 - The Restoration

At the end of the 1,260 years in 1830 the Church of Christ was restored. Thus the prophetic words of Isaiah "*he shall set up an ensign for the nations*" (Isaiah 11:12) were fulfilled where the "*ensign*" or banner was complete with the advent of the Book of Mormon, bringing to pass the prophetic words of Isa-

iah, "*And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness... They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine*" (Isaiah 29:18, 24).

1917 thru 1948 - The Establishment of the State of Israel

Progressing through prophetic time we find another portion of the prophecy of Isaiah beginning to be fulfilled. In chapter 11 verse 12 of Isaiah the prophet gives us understanding as to why this last "*ensign*" is set up. First we understand it is "*for the nations*" but there is more, "*and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*" The prophetic time table moves up to World War I where the Turks were driven out of Levant, which consisted of the island of Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and part of southern Turkey. Subsequent to that occupation, in November 2, 1917, the Balfour Declaration was established that provided for a national homeland for the Jewish people within Palestine.

Continuing with the struggle of securing a permanent Jewish Homeland or State, meetings were held in 1922 by the Supreme Court of the League of Nations between Great Britain and the United States. The outcome was that

the League of Nations recognized the "*historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine*" and the "*grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country*" ultimately supporting the Balfour Declaration.

After many conflicts between the Jewish and Arab nations the United Nations became involved and in 1947 put forth resolution 181 (partition plan) that set the stage which afforded the right of the Jewish people to establish their own state.

The fighting continued between Israel and the Arabs nations and in May of 1948 Israel declared its independence "of the British mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel." Within days Israel was attacked by Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, which is known as the War of Independence for Israel where she defeated her enemies who sued for peace in 1949. However the city of Jerusalem was left divided by armistice lines between Israel and Jordan (www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/jerutime.html) fulfilling the words of Jesus Christ, "*And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people, and I have covenanted with them, that I would gather them together in mine own due time; That I would give*

unto them again the land of their fathers, for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them for ever; saith the Father” (3 Nephi 9:66-67).

1952 thru 1953 – The Book of Mormon returns to the remnant of the house of Jacob

In 1952 Apostle Clarence Wheaton was invited to the home of the Mayan cacique, Nemensio Xiu, in Ticul, located on the Mayan peninsula of Yucatan, along with the leading Mayan elders from the surrounding villages. After reading in the fifth chapter of the third book of Nephi, Nemensio Xiu and the Mayan elders compared what they had heard with the traditions that they held concerning the Fair God of their ancestors. Nemensio Xiu said it was the same account written in the ancient records of their people which had been destroyed by “the black robed priests” at ancient Mani. He then held the book in his hand before the people gathered at his home and said in Maya: “This is our Book. It is ours!” (Wheaton, C.L). Following this event in 1953 thirty people from the small town of Dzan were baptized into the Church of Christ and from among them the Lord called an Indian ministry; a new royal priesthood had been established in the same generation which saw the 900 year reign of the Xiu caciques come to an end with the death of Nemensio (note: this historic account was taken from *The Last Maya King*

and the Liberation of Jerusalem by Apostle Donald McIndoo).

This event was a significant turning point where God’s focus was evident toward the recovery or restoration of His people, the house of Israel, that had been broken off and scattered into every nation, fulfilling the prophecy given to Isaiah, “*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left*” (Isaiah 11:11). It was also the fulfillment of prophecy found in the Book of Mormon, “*...that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years and many generations, after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed; And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord... Wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved*” (1 Nephi 4:16-17, 19).

1967 – The Six Day War & The Fulfillment of the times of the Gentiles

Prior to the war that took place between the State of Israel and the Arab countries on June 6, 1967, there was a common belief among the res-

toration sects that the prophecy given by Jesus Christ as recorded in Luke 21:24 had been fulfilled in 1948 with the establishment of the State of Israel.

A closer evaluation of the prophecy “*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled*” (Luke 21:24) would reveal that the events that took place in 1967 matches perfectly with the prophecy given by Jesus Christ.

The war in June of 1967 was a decisive victory for the Jewish nation by regaining much of the land given them of God from the days of Moses. Israel had established itself as a Nation, a homeland for Jewish immigrants who have flooded into her, bolstering their military and society as a whole. More importantly, they regained possession of the city of Jerusalem, solidifying their claim that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel. Where Jerusalem had been divided by way of an armistice line between Israel and Jordan, Jerusalem is now in Israel’s control as their proclaimed capital, no more “*trodden down*” by the Gentile nations. Israel obtained the Temple Mount and the Western Wall after the quick victory over her enemies which brought “*Jerusalem’s holiest site under Jewish control for the first time in 2,000 years,*” according to **Commander Motta Gur** when speaking to his brigade after the recapture

of Jerusalem and the Holy sites (www.sixdaywar.org/content/R_eunificationJerusalem.asp).

We know that through prophecy found in the Book of Mormon that it would be “*through the fullness of the Gentiles*” (1 Nephi 4:16-24) that the gospel would be restored to the remnant of Joseph’s seed, which occurred in 1953 among the Maya in Yucatan. This thought is also supported in the Bible, “*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in*” (Romans 11:25). The gospel went to our Maya brethren in 1953, which had to take place during “*the fullness of the Gentiles*” for the prophecy found in 1 Nephi 4:16-24 to be true. That would mean that the events in 1948 could not have been the fulfillment of “*the time of the Gentiles...*” The last remaining aspect of the prophecy by Jesus Christ that was left to be fulfilled was the regaining of the city of Jerusalem by Israel, “*and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled,*” this event ended or fulfilled “*the times of the Gentiles...*”

It must be understood that God has returned Jerusalem back to Israel but the fight is not over and another prophecy will unfold prior to “*the day of the Lord*” where God “*will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall*

be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zechariah 14:1-2). When this prophecy was given by the prophet Zechariah around 520 to 508 BC, Jerusalem had been an occupied city from the days of the Babylonians who destroyed it in 586 BC, then by the Persians who took it away from the Babylonians in 539 BC. Jerusalem would continue to be “*trodden down*” until its liberation in 1967. God has set the stage, with Israel’s occupation of the city of Jerusalem, for the prophecy of Zechariah to come to pass where “*half of the city shall go forth into captivity.*” God will ultimately settle the dispute over Jerusalem, honoring His covenant with Israel, “*Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle*” (Zechariah 14:3).

1998 to 2014 - The work of the Church of Christ in the Last Days

Now let us consider the day that we live in and look upon the events that have taken place within the last 16 years since the calling that filled the vacancies within the Quorum of Apostles. You can see the hand of God opening opportunities to spread the restored gospel across the globe. Our missionaries report that with each contact or small group of people that we have opportunity to labor with more op-

portunities quickly open in areas close by. The missionaries find the Church in the position where we do not have enough ministry and laborers to keep up with the growth. Having been given the opportunity to travel to the island of Mindanao in the Philippines I find the scenario is no different for our ministry there as well, where the opportunity is great but the laborers are few. I am reminded of the words of Jesus, “*But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he to his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest*” (Matthew 9:36-39).

As a Church, we find ourselves in the period of time where the prophecy concerning Israel is being fulfilled where, “*The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God*” (Isaiah 52:10), “*... in bringing about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel*” (1 Nephi 7:22).

As for our brethren on the island of Mindanao, the following prophecy speaks of them who have been found by those who have been called of God and sent to teach the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ:

“Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish

them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks” (Jeremiah 16:16).

Some have received the promises and the priesthood authority established where God has called so far nine men to de-

liver the true points of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the power to seal both on earth and in heaven in the language of the people living on Mindanao, “*For my soul delighteth in plainness: for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the chil-*

dren of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding: for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding” (2 Nephi 13:4-5).



Elder Roger Manali Baptizing at the Saguing Mission



Top Left: Elder Roger Manali, Elder "Raffy" Serafin Vivas, Priest Arturo Superio, Elder Jonathan Alameda, Evangelist Camilo Samson; Bottom: Elder Wilson Manali, Elder Demetrio Indangan, Elder Tobias Operio



Priest Arturo Operio Teaching the Restored Gospel



The Bible and the...



Book of Mormon



Elder Demetrio Indangan Contributing to the Conversation



Tagbaros Mission, one of the many missions on the island of Mindanao

“But great are the promises of the Lord unto those who are upon the isles of the sea; Wherefore, as it says isles, there must needs be more than

this; and they are inhabited also by our brethren. For behold, the Lord God has led away from time to time from the house of Israel, according to

his will and pleasure” (2 Nephi 7:36-38).

REPORT

Central Mexico

Dear brothers and sisters,
 Thank you so much for your prayers. We had a very successful trip to Atulan Jalisco. My wife and daughter had the opportunity to accompany me in this trip. All the brothers were very happy to meet my family. We spent 15 days with them having services every night. The brothers there like to sing very much. When the service begins we usually have around half an hour singing. After that we have the sermon. When the sermon is finished we have another 20 minutes for singing. After each service we have a snack and refreshments with all the brothers. We really had a good time with them! We really appreciate their love; we feel like we're at home! I had the opportunity to talk with a baptized member, his name is Luis Pelayo. He is a very dedicated person to serve God. He attended all the services. I remember his testimony. He had a good job in the past, but his job involved selling beers. At that time he needed just two years more that he can be retired. (In Mexico not many companies you can retire.) When he was baptized, he told me that he understood that his job was not good for him as a believer in Christ. So he quit that job. He lost the opportunity to be paid without working! But he said that he made the better decision for his soul! Now he is a happy man; he sells ice cream in his tricycle in front of a school. He likes his job now. He told that his dream is to get a motorcycle so he can go to the villages around to sell his ice cream. Luis is a very content person with his new life in Christ. Only God can make you to see what is really important in your life!

I ask your prayers for that mission that God can continue working with His people in central Mexico. I also ask your prayers for Elder Nathan Denham and his wife, Ana Gloria, who are traveling in other places in central Mexico.

May God bless in this wonderful day!
 Apostle Placido K. Matu
 Yucatan, Mexico



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS: GIVING

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) is providing portions of lessons (teasers!) for several age groups on a common topic. To see the complete lessons, please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at www.cocsermons.net and click on the "Resources" tab to view all of the lessons and studies for children and adults.

More information regarding Sunday School lessons can be found on www.edmodo.com. Contact Susan Porter: porter_susan@sbcglobal.net; home address: 9 Market Street; Middleville, MI 49333 for more information.

Preschool: Giving!

Objective: To have children understand that God wants us to be a cheerful giver

Scripture References: Mosiah 2:4-3; Acts 3:6; 2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson:

- Read Mosiah 2:4-3
 - Explain that in the Book of Mormon, King Benjamin, taught the people how they should be giving
- Read Acts 3:6 and explain that it means that if you do not have money, you can still do other things to give to God. Ask students, "How can we give to God?" Then, go over the following ways together.
 - Money
 - Feed the hungry (give people something to eat if they are hungry)
 - Clothe the naked (give someone who does not have clothes to wear some of your clothes for them to wear)
 - Visit the sick
 - Give hugs
 - Be nice to people: love others and give to them (Jesus teaches us to love others and pray for them.)
- Read 2 Corinthians 9:7, focusing on being a cheerful giver.
 - Explain that a cheerful giver means we are giving because we want to give to others to help them and because we want to do what God and Jesus tells us to do for others.
- Talk about how we love our Mommies and Daddies and that is how we are supposed to love God and other people. We give Mommies and Daddies hugs and that is one way that we show love and give to others.
- Explain to the children that God likes us to give in other ways too and that one way is for us to give money into the collection at church to help others and keep us the church (God's house). Explain that you are going to give them some money and they are to put the money in the church collection box. Bring the box into the Sunday School room for them to put the money into it.
- Bring a gift of food to give to the children for a snack. Have children give some of their snack to another child, if possible.

Scan for more lessons!



Elementary/Middle School: **The Words of King Benjamin** (Mosiah 1-3)

Read: Thumbnail Sketch of the Book of Mormon, by Apostle Brian E. McIndoo and Marlene Oar (p. 29-30)

Activity #1: Create a bookmark to remember the words of King Benjamin.

Activity #2: Making Homeless Car Kits

Find the directions for these activities at www.churchofchrist-tl.org
Go to Links, Resources, AVA, Studies & lessons: Elementary G tab "Giving"

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS: GIVING

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) is providing portions of lessons (teasers!) for several age groups on a common topic. To see the complete lessons, please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at www.cocsermons.net and click on the "Resources" tab to view all of the lessons and studies for children and adults.

More information regarding Sunday School lessons can be found on www.edmodo.com. Contact Susan Porter: porter_susan@sbcglobal.net; home address: 9 Market Street; Middleville, MI 49333 for more information.

Preschool: Giving!

Objective: To have children understand that God wants us to be a cheerful giver

Scripture References: Mosiah 2:4-3; Acts 3:6; 2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson:

- o Read Mosiah 2:4-3
 - o Explain that in the Book of Mormon, King Benjamin, taught the people how they should be giving
- o Read Acts 3:6 and explain that it means that if you do not have money, you can still do other things to give to God. Ask students, "How can we give to God?" Then, go over the following ways together.
 - o Money
 - o Feed the hungry (give people something to eat if they are hungry)
 - o Clothe the naked (give someone who does not have clothes to wear some of your clothes for them to wear)
 - o Visit the sick
 - o Give hugs
 - o Be nice to people: love others and give to them (Jesus teaches us to love others and pray for them.)
- o Read 2 Corinthians 9:7, focusing on being a cheerful giver.
 - o Explain that a cheerful giver means we are giving because we want to give to others to help them and because we want to do what God and Jesus tells us to do for others.
- o Talk about how we love our Mommies and Daddies and that is how we are supposed to love God and other people. We give Mommies and Daddies hugs and that is one way that we show love and give to others.
- o Explain to the children that God likes us to give in other ways too and that one way is for us to give money into the collection at church to help others and keep us the church (God's house). Explain that you are going to give them some money and they are to put the money in the church collection box. Bring the box into the Sunday School room for them to put the money into it.
- o Bring a gift of food to give to the children for a snack. Have children give some of their snack to another child, if possible.

Scan for more lessons!



Elementary/Middle School: **The Words of King Benjamin** (Mosiah 1-3)

Read: Thumbnail Sketch of the Book of Mormon, by Apostle Brian E. McIndoo and Marlene Oar, p. 29-30

Activity #1: Create a bookmark to remember the words of King Benjamin.

Activity #2: Making Homeless Car Kits:

Find the directions for these activities at www.churchofchrist-tl.org; go to Links, Resources, AVA, Studies & lessons: Elementary G tab "Giving"



FROM the ARCHIVES

1950 Church of Christ Group Photo



REPORT

The Ordination of Damaiel Ku Cetz



Dear brothers and sisters,
We are very happy to inform you of the ordination of our dear brother Damaiel Ku to an elder in the Church of Christ. It was a beautiful and very spiritual service last night in Uayalceh local. More than 150 people were in attendance on this beautiful occasion. Now we have two elders in this local. Felipe Uluac and now Damaiel Ku. I was very happy to see the ministry in Yucatan and Quinta Roo attend this beautiful service.

*Apostle Placido K. Matu
Yucatan, Mexico*

The service held in Uayalceh was different from any other service I have attended in Mexico. Many of the men came dressed in ties, the children were quiet and many were weeping openly for the joy they felt.

There were specials sung by the local congregation where the stage platform was filled with the various groups: men, women and young people. A few minutes prior to speaking, Brother Placido K. Matu was asked to preach a sermon about the ordination to explain the callings of God. He read from the book of Exodus concerning the calling of Aaron. During his sermon several people saw a light behind him as he spoke.

Felipe called for a vote of acceptance to receive Damaiel as a minister and pastor of the Group. Then a prayer was said for the ordination. Brother Darin Crull and I went forward to perform the ordination. I can clearly remember the words which fell upon my mind as I spoke to him: Brother Damaiel, this calling is not about you but is about God's purposes and His work.

It is easy to forget what the work is really about. We look at men and wonder why they are called and others are not. We look at the men in scripture and wonder about their weaknesses and why did God use them. God has said on several occasions, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. When we hear this we think of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In reality God is telling us who He is, not who they are. I am the God who brought that family into being, by My power and My will. I called them to assist Me in saving those who will believe My words and follow My commandments. It was not because of the greatness of the men, but because of God's greatness and plan.

During and after the ordination some said they saw light again, a light that turned the clothing of those mortal men white. One person afterward made the statement, while pointing to a white shirt worn by another, *sto no es blanco* (that is not white,



indicating the great whiteness that he saw.)

At the close of the service the ministry were asked to come forward. Some of us were asked to say a few words. I remembered a young person's dream that was told to me just that week. His dream was simple and to the point. He said he saw brother Don McIndoo standing in a large green field with only grass around him. The other thing was a tree branch that he was looking at in front of him. It had two new leaves on one end. I told the congregation about this dream and felt moved to remind them of a scripture in the Book of Mormon (2 Nephi 6:105) that prophesies about a righteous branch in future generations. I told them that I believed I was now looking at that branch tonight.

I feel honored to have participated in the service and felt the Spirit of God work in the midst of this remnant of Jacob. I pray that I may yet see many blessings fulfilled in my lifetime.

*Alvin J. Moser
August 2014*

REPORT

Yucatan Marriage Retreat

My dear brothers and friends, as always it is a privilege and a blessing to report one more activity in the Yucatan peninsula. We had our first marriage retreat for three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It was held in hacienda Uayalceh de Peon in the state of Yucatan. About 35 couples were present, including four elders who attended this important event. We heard three important subjects. The first one was “the perfect marriage.” The second one was “the marriage that God wants,” and the last one was “the forgiveness.” All of these subjects were given by Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Dan Lawrence (they didn’t bring their wives this time; we hope that they can do so next time). We had special classes for the young people and also for the children. We are thankful for these unforgettable three days. We learned much and we had the opportunity to visit with all the brothers and sisters. We also had the opportunity to visit the missions around the Uayalche local.



*Apostle Placido K. Matu
Yucatan, Mexico*



REPORT

2014 Missouri Reunion Report

On Friday, August 1st, 2014, the Missouri Reunion began with a prayer service. Elders Marvin and Benny Case were in charge. Br. Benny greeted us and told us not to be complacent, as we all have a house to clean; Christ wants to come in and help us. We need to let Him be our dearest friend. A season of prayer, several administrations and many testimonies followed. These are just a few:

- ▶ A brother told us of his grandson's faith in the healing of his friend; many years ago babies with polio were healed through Br. Anderson; his younger brother was lifeless and brought back. He told of a Korean War P.O.W. beaten in an attempt to get him to deny Christ...he wouldn't. He told the enemy God could knock them both down in their attempt. He prayed as they were about to shoot him in the head; they both fell and died within four hours. Another occurrence he told of happened many years ago; he was driving a jeep on an airport taxi strip...all of a sudden he 'felt' to stomp on the brakes; just then he felt a gush of air and an airplane landed right in front of him. He admonished us to be faithful followers and miracles will follow.
- ▶ A sister couldn't get motivated for Scripture Adventure this year. Neither could another sister. They both asked for prayers at their locals. Then they became filled with strength and ideas...it went from being a burden to being a joy!

A preaching service followed, with the sermon given by Elder Beem, assisted by Elder Bob Oldham. Brother Larry Beem greeted us, and then there were several administrations. Br. Larry spoke of Matthew 18:1-7 where we are told to become as little children. He asked if we have a broken heart and a contrite spirit? Can we turn from sin? We want to be His children, aware of our own unworthiness, but have we fully repented? Can we stand before Him in that last day? Br. Larry spoke of King Lamoni in the Book of Mormon who became as a little child in order to get closer to God. He read from Alma 13:44. Our brother told us he was taught from "quarterlies" and didn't hold a Book of Mormon in his hands until he

was seventeen years old...then when he read Alma 13:44-54 he had his own testimony of its truthfulness. He had a vision of the king kneeling and heard him say he'd given away all his sins to know God. Are we willing to know God? He read from Mosiah 1:115-122 and Galatians 5:22-26.

After lunch and a song service we enjoyed a sermon given by Elder Randy Sheldon, assisted by Priest Bruce Haines. Br. Randy began by telling us he would talk about the great gathering of the family of God. He read from 2 Nephi 12:90 and told us this will be decided upon by the decisions each of us make, for the righteous children of God will be spared. Br. Randy cited some examples of the many ways Satan has us distracted. He used Ezekiel 38 and told us the kings of the East are coming; Israel is surrounded, the time is near. Br. Randy used 3 Nephi 4:55-57 and told us Lehi and his family were spared from Jerusalem's destruction; later the Pilgrims came to this land; then came the return of the saints to Zion (MO); the righteous WILL BE SPARED. God wants to gather His children. Br. Randy read Jer. 6:16—They would not hearken. Joshua 7:1, 12—He urged us to get rid of the accursed thing. He read from II Chron. 20:2-4 and asked, What do we put before God? He read Psalms 27:3-5 and told us that times will be hard ahead; we need to look to God, and if we do He will protect us.

Following the evening meal and another song service we enjoyed a sermon given by Elder Mark Hill, assisted by Priest Shaughn Sprague. Br. Mark greeted us and began by asking, "What is your purpose?" Our lives are forever changing, but our main purpose is to glorify God. He read 1 John 3:8 where we are told that Jesus was sent to destroy the works of the devil, doing the will of the Father. Br. Mark read Alma 19:90 and explained that this life is a time to prepare to meet God. He read from Eph. 4:11-13, John 9:1-11, Acts 26:9-20, 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, Phil. 4:11-13, and told us God can use you any time in your life as long as you're willing to let Him. He used Romans 8:28, Col. 3:17-25, and

gave us some examples of people who have turned bad things that happened in their lives to good, serving and glorifying God, and letting Him use them for His purpose. Br. Mark used Alma 15:52-59 in closing.

Saturday morning we gathered in for another prayer service. Elders Don Case and Randy Sheldon were in charge. Br. Don greeted us and told us he would like to pick up right where we left off the day before...doing God's will, which will bring Him honor and glory. Br. Randy told us we are gathered in as a family to glorify God, to build and to work in His vineyard. He read from Col. 1:7-18. Several administrations took place. Br. Don read Alma 16:218-222. Names were taken for the prayer list, then we knelt in a silent prayer, during which time we could each petition our Lord. Br. Don read from John 2:3-4, 1 John 5:20, John 7:28-29, John 14:6-7, 15-21 and 1 John 3:1-3. Our purpose is to love, honor and glorify God so we'll know Him. Keep His commandments to bring honor to Him, and bring Him to the whole world. We knelt in a season of prayer and there were many testimonies of God's blessings; these are just a few:

- ▶ A brother rejoices...he is here with us because of God's mercy. Just a month ago he nearly died. His trial began with a charley horse in his leg, which led to a CAT scan; he got sicker; he had a 103 degree fever. He prayed, asking the Lord to heal him, and to know what was wrong with him. In the hospital he learned he had a blood clot that had gone through his lung...not in his leg. A nurse actually diagnosed him with having Tick Fever, and he was treated for it. The illness was taken from him and he went home on July 14th. He thanks and praises God and hopes to find his purpose in his life. He knows there were several times working at the power company that he would have been killed if God hadn't stepped in.
- ▶ A brother told us while he was in Yucatan and Quintana Roo he preached about a dream he had just before he left home. The dream was about his lawn; but the yard was his life. Some of it was beautiful and

lush, and in some areas there were weeds. Some weeds had even blossomed. . . in those areas he'd done what he had wanted to do. The weeds were there to destroy the fruit which comes to a neat yard. A new minister in Yucatan then told him he'd had a dream where there was a lion in his house. Our brother told us just three days prior he heard a dream from a sister here (given years ago) which was much the same dream: a lion going in and out of homes. People were actually letting it in, as no one really cared. A lion represents those things we've let in but the devil sent to destroy.

- ▶ A sister told us the story of the milkweed and how once it was planted in her garden she couldn't get rid of it. Just like our sins, sometimes it takes something harsh to destroy it. She had to get rid of it as it was taking over the best soil in her garden. Temptations are there to try to take over your life.
- ▶ A brother testified he was given to know that we as a people do not understand Christ's atonement. "Love the Lord your God. . . the second is like unto the first. . . on those two commandments hang all these. If you love me, keep my commandments." Every one of us has a milkweed. . . we bring them into our garden. Christ came to teach: "Love God with all our hearts, and our neighbor as thyself." We must learn to fall on our knees and be led by God. Matt 5:48. . . we must surrender our own will and follow Christ.
- ▶ A brother remembered that many years ago he got down on his knees and asked the Lord, "Where is the church?" Years later, he asked again and was told the same thing. He was baptized right after that. Doing church history he went through an experience and gained understanding—God has preserved the church, NOT MAN. We know we have the absolute truth, we understand it, but maybe we don't show it enough. Christ's own people wouldn't accept Him. He has chosen this remnant for His purpose, one person at a time. He wants us to be humble before Him. He is working with us, giving us opportunity to get the "weeds" out. Our visiting ministry has been a marvelous experience; it just happens. The Visitor's Center, the same; it's a work, but when we show love like Christ did, it works. The doctrine of Christ is necessary, but when He sends His Spirit marvelous things happen. We have to stand strong for what we believe.
- ▶ A brother spoke of taking extra efforts to reach out to his neighbors recently. They invited them to sup with them, and they came. Things take time. Pray for those opportunities. He told of an experience he had

years ago teaching. . . he couldn't get a choir going because of scheduling. His contract wasn't renewed. He prayed and was told by the still small voice of the Spirit to be cheerful. He'd had a defeated attitude. He changed it and learned he'd been his own worst enemy. A student offered him 30 students if they practiced after school. They came and it did well; they also did well at a concert and an operetta. He offered himself in this area and he and his family moved here to Independence. . . that was what the Lord wanted all along.

- ▶ A brother told us that last Monday he was walking where he shouldn't have been. He moved over from the center of the road when he saw a car coming, but even though he was on the edge of the road he was hit and thrown. He laid in the ditch. He gave an admonishment that if we want God to protect us, we'd better be doing His will. His leg was badly bruised and he spent the night in the hospital. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Following lunch we gathered in for a baptism. Van McClure, son of Sr. Jennifer (Cobb) McClure and Kyle McClure, was baptized Saturday, August 2, by his Uncle Elder Randy Sheldon. Br. Randy was assisted by Van's cousin, Pastor and Elder Matt Case. Our new little brother attends the Springfield, Missouri, local church, is 13 years old, and currently an eighth grader. Van said he was very happy many of his friends from Church of Christ Teen Camp were able to attend his baptism at the Reunion.

Following the baptism we gathered into the sanctuary for a song service and then a sermon. Elder Trevor Wratt was assisted by Apostle Joel Yates. Br. Trevor greeted us and began by telling us if we want absolute truth we must trust in God. He read from Matt. 26:36-46, Acts 7:51-60, 21:13, Luke 9:59-67, Psalm 37:3-4, Helaman 3:117-128. Br. Trevor told us that what happens to us changes who we are. It's not our strengths God is interested in, but it's our weaknesses. He continued with reading Alma 12:4-10. Br. Trevor admonished us that the things that change us aren't in the good times, and also that we can always find an excuse not to do what God wants us to do. He read Job 1:4-12, 22, and reminded us that working for God is not the same as working WITH God. We are His tools. He told us you can't stay where you are; God wants you to be a better tool. He read from 1 John 1:6-10 and 2 Peter 2:4-9, 1 Peter 1:22. Br. Trevor reminded us

that we've all been in situations that weren't good for us. Without God we are nothing. He sustains, changes us and makes us consider things. Trust God no matter what happens.

After dinner there was another song service, which was followed by a sermon by Elder Dennis Trudgen, assisted by Elder Adam Porter. Br. Dennis greeted us and began by titling his sermon, "ALL IN, ALL THE TIME." Br. Dennis asked, "Are we ready?" He showed some photos from camps and reunions intermittently throughout his sermon. He began with reading from Jacob 3:138-145. We have a way to go before we are closely in tune with God. This church has been given the great commission. Why do we have youth camps? He read 2 Nephi 3:10-11—Lehi brought up his children in the way they should go. We send our children so they will be strengthened in the Lord. They still have their freedom of choice. He read Deut. 6:4-7—We need to teach our children diligently. We teach our children by our example. He showed photos taken in Yucatan in 1997—people are very active in church there. In 2005—He showed a video of Brother Santiago and his family singing in Yobain; those teens today are now teachers at the children's reunion. They are busy every single week in their own congregations. We have a new Elder and Pastor in Uayalceh, Damiel Ku. Much is happening there; it's our fastest growing local. Br. Dennis read Numbers 11:13-17, 25-29, 1 Cor. 12:28; and Rom. 12:1-15. He's known Leydi since 1997 when she and his daughter, Amanda, were eight years old. Our sister, Leydi, has a special gift: she had a dream as well as visitations from an angel of the Lord (there were five visitations in all). She was told they need to get more active and more united; we are the true church and Christ is returning soon. Br. Dennis read Mark 16:15-16, Mormon 4:86, James 5:19-20, Alma 2:3-4, Acts 2:41-47, 4 Nephi 4-7, 13-14, 17-21, and Eccl. 4:8-12. We need to have a perfect harmony in the love of God. Br. Dennis told us we need to be 'All in, all pulling in the same direction, all the time.'

Several Saturday evening events were scheduled for our young people; an Ice Cream Social also took place in the dining hall where we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Church of Christ Teen Camp, with photos and videos of the campers during the early years. The evening was greatly enjoyed, with

much loving fellowship among our brothers and sisters.

On Sunday morning we gathered in to the house of the Lord for our sacrament service. Apostle Jeff Oldham and Elder Dan Lawrence were in charge of the service. Brother Lawrence greeted us. Brother Oldham read from Gal. 6 where we are told that God is not mocked. We are under attack; Satan is working overtime. Step back and look at our lives and observe what's around us. Our children need us and we need them to step up. An exercise they participated in at camp was holding on to the "Rod of Iron" (a rope) while being led through many different obstacles, even being tempted to go a different way, an "easier" way. Our desire is for the still small voice of the Spirit to guide them through so that at the end they will hear the words we all long for... "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

The emblems were blessed and served. We entered into a season of prayer in which many names and needs were raised to our Heavenly Father. Many voices were then lifted in testimony; here are just a few:

- ▶ A brother told us the Lord blesses those who keep His commandments; faith is strengthened, love is increased. It's a process. His faith circle began 38 years ago when he and his wife were married. He experienced love in the church; he was exposed to the word of God being preached with power and authority. Years ago in Yucatan he was very ill. He spent three days in a hammock; too weak to turn off the fan—but there wasn't one! Still terribly weak, he went to church and was introduced as the service's preacher. He stood and his strength returned, and he was even able to preach in Spanish. As soon as he had finished his sickness returned. It was a miracle that he can share with all, even his workplace clients.
- ▶ Eleven Administrations followed. . . .
- ▶ A brother told us the principles of the gospel are clearly spelled out in the scriptures. "It mattereth not if it so be that you do it with an eye single to the glory of God" . . . given to Joseph when he desired to serve sacrament and thought he didn't have any. Any question you have—go to God. We have the pure gospel of Christ. . . we must accept it, not make an issue of it.
- ▶ A sister told us of being preserved with a low tire on her vehicle. They learned that back in June when

they'd had a flat the wrong tire was disposed of. They had been driving all over on a very bad tire. They had even been to Michigan and she was led to ask for prayers that they have safe travels. They were protected.

- ▶ A sister told us that her son tries to put God in a box so he can understand Him. She watched "The da Vinci Code" because he had so she could understand what he had been talking about. She told us it was garbage. She later had a dream where she was in a busy supermarket. She saw her father and a woman; it got dark. Not good. She ordered Satan out. . . she had watched something evil on TV and now two entities were fighting for her. She will cancel cable TV. Please wear out your knees for your children.
- ▶ A sister told us she had an abnormal childhood. Just a year ago she finally had to deal with it. Satan has a way of laying negativity on you. . . she is determined to change that cycle. She loves this time of year: Scripture Adventure, and seeing all these children. Then she had a flashback; she prayed for it to be taken. Just last night it turned into a joy and a blessing. She desires to be used; and actually she realized the Lord had been using her for years. . . prepping her to help these children. She is so thankful.
- ▶ A sister told us of how sick she was a few weeks ago. She went to bed, prayed and read in her Book of Mormon. She recounted another blessing: Many years ago when her husband was diagnosed with cancer she was given a hymn that comforted her. All through his illness she felt the Spirit with her and not once did she feel alone. She was comforted all through his illness, his passing and the memorial service. She felt a joy and peace, even though it was a great loss for her. God will help you get through whatever trials life has for you.
- ▶ A brother spoke about the ordination of Damiel Ku as an elder from Yucatan. He was there. People were overflowing the sanctuary. People were looking through the windows from outside to witness this event. Even though drunks were out laying on the streets. . . to see the captivity of those souls as being an opposite of those at church. Apostle Placido was asked to preach at the last minute, but gave the best sermon ever. It was a wonderful sermon for the young minister to hear. As our Br. Jay hugged our new minister, one of our sisters saw a bright light. It was so bright that Br. Jay's red shirt changed to white. Ten or more had also witnessed this. They estimate that there were 150 people there at that service. In 2008, Br. Felipe had been told to extend the

church (then the group was small) to make it bigger. He did, and now it's overflowing.

Following lunch and a special music service we gathered in for the final sermon of the reunion. The sermon was given by Apostle Joel Yates, with Elder Jim Case assisting. Br. Joel greeted us and told us we are in a day when we have to cut through the niceties. . . this is "The Day of Our Preparation." He wonders what the future is for our children and our grandchildren; they are not ready, and neither are you. Br. Joel spoke of the "Rod of Iron" challenge at camp. Many slipped off the line. Sometimes friends or family pull us off. He read Alma 26:56-57, 94-96, and 101-104. A call to prepare: Eph. 6:10-11. Know your enemy. What are wiles? Methods. What kind of beast lies in wait for prey? A Lion. He read 1 Peter 5:8 and Helaman 5:49. Know your enemy—Eph. 6:12, Alma 15:50, Rev. 12:10. Satan is the accuser; he wants to leave us hopeless. Know what you're fighting against: Eph. 6:13-14. THIS is the evil day; what is truth, and how is it determined? Matt. 5, Eph. 1:4, 2 Tim. 3:1-5, Mi. 6:2-3, Matt. 11:28-30—Will we allow correction? John 16:8-12, Eph. 5:1-3, 1 Cor. 6:18-20—Keep the high standard of the Church of Christ. Eph. 5:4-7—what are we guarding our hearts from, the standards of the world and lesser world churches? Eph. 5:8-11, 4:26-27, 6:15-16, Mi. 7:18-20, 1 Tim. 6:12, Eph. 6:17-18, 1 Nephi 7:60. Because of righteousness, Satan hath no power: 4 Nephi 1, Victory in Christ. When Christ found the 'one in the ninety-and-nine,' He didn't kick it; He embraced it. Today's interpretation: Ephesians 6:13 = today and Ephesians 6:14 = truth. God's truth—His word.

We were strengthened in the Lord, and in love and for our church family. We thank and praise our Lord for these blessings.

*Your reporter,
Sr. Deb Haines*

NOTICES

CHURCH OF CHRIST CAMPS & REUNIONS

WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 3-4

Pettit Lodge at Lake Mauer Campground in Excelsior Springs, Missouri

We meet for lunch in Excelsior Springs on Friday, followed by unstructured activities until our first meeting at 7:30 p.m. Three meals are served, and special diets are accommodated. The cost is \$40 before August 31 and \$45 after. (Please note that the actual cost is \$59 per person overnight, not including any cost for supplies. Our fundraisers throughout the year help to curtail the costs for everyone.)

Carrie Geier: (816) 739-9386
geiers214@sbcglobal.net

ONTARIO REUNION

OCTOBER 4-5

Brant/Norfolk Church of Christ, 163 Teeter St., Teeterville, Ontario, Canada.

Bill and Marn Vieveen: (519) 759-8087

marnieviveen@sympatico.ca

Mike and Deb Bevaart: (519) 805-9790

mbevaart@rogers.com

A passport, enhanced driver's licence, fast card or nexus card are required to re-enter the United States.

PHOENIX REUNION

NOVEMBER 28-30

2929E. Siesta Lane,
85050-3415

Jim Yates, Jr.:

(602) 374-3688 (home)

(602) 692-4205 (cell)

Gary Jacobsen:

(602) 421-4606

Aadam Yates:

(602) 300-9013

THE HOPE of ZION

The Board of Publications has made available a copy of the report from the Committee to Study Zion entitled, *The Hope of Zion*. Contact Elder Robert Oldham at rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net, or any member of the Board.

AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time, which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover

what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is www.cocsermons.net.

CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE

The General Church Correspondence Committee would like to extend the opportunity for any who wish to communicate through written correspondence to contact one of the following three committee members:

MARLENE COBB (Chairman)
725 S. Pickwick
Springfield, MO 65802

JUNE HAINES
11589 Genuine Rd
Clare, MI 48617

PAT MCCANN
18808 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.



Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TEMPLE LOT
200 S RIVER BLVD PO BOX 472
INDEPENDENCE MO 64051-0472
churchofchrist-tl.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDEP., MO
PERMIT NO. 259

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Prices for continental U.S. only, plus shipping & handling charges.

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Members (optional)	\$4.00
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Non-Members	12.00
Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape	2.50
Book of Commandments (plastic bound)	6.00
Book of Commandments (hardcover)	11.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic)	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition reprint—leatherette)	46.00
A Book of Mormon Companion (plastic)	6.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
Changing of the Revelations50
History of the Church of Christ Volumes I & II	8.00
Libro De Mormon (Spanish)	7.00
A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, by Daniel MacGregor	4.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ (paperback)	6.00
Temple Lot Deed30
Thumbnail Sketch of the Book of Mormon (paperback)	8.00
Un Libro de Mandamientos - Spanish Book of Commandments (paperback)	3.00
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Zion's Hymnal	7.00

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830	God's Promises to Israel
Apostasy from the New Testament Church	God's Purpose in America
Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ	The Great Plan of Redemption
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	A Latter Day Apostasy
The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	The Latter Day Restoration
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants	The Position of the Council of the Apostles Regarding Some Issues of Today
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	Priesthood—Divine Authority
A Call to National Repentance - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ	Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday	Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box 2) Did You Know? 3) Epistle to American Indians 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk	Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
Concerning Marriage and Polygamy	Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
The Cost of Salvation	Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?	Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
El Libro De Mandamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion DeLa Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)	A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
Evidences of the Book of Mormon	That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
First Presidency or First Apostles?	The Teachings of the Gospel - As verified in the Bible and Book of Mormon
	What about the Book of Mormon?
	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
	Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051-0472, or e-mail the information to cofcrecorder@sbcglobal.net. One form per family, please.

MEMBER'S NAME: (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____

OLD ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NEW ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NAMES of all Church of Christ (Temple Lot) members residing at new address: _____

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

VISIT US AT:
churchofchrist-tl.org